

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Lonnie Whitaker, 31, Madison, was sentenced yesterday by U.S. District Judge Barbara B. Crabb to 41 months in federal prison, without the possibility of parole, for unlawfully possessing a loaded firearm as a convicted felon on June 17, 2007. Whitaker pleaded guilty to this charge on November 9, 2007.

On June 17, 2007, the Madison Police Department received a 911 call and the caller stated that a man in a silver car had a gun in a retail parking lot on Verona Road. Police responded to the parking lot and approached Whitaker who was sitting in the driver's seat of a silver car. Police recovered a loaded .45 caliber handgun from the center console.

Whitaker is prohibited from possessing firearms and ammunition because of a prior felony conviction for second degree reckless homicide, party to the crime. Because Whitaker was still on probation for that conviction on June 17, his term of probation has been revoked and his federal sentence will run consecutively to that term of imprisonment. Whitaker will also serve a three-year term of supervised release

following the end of his federal prison sentence.

The charge against Whitaker was the result of an investigation conducted by the Madison Police Department . The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney Rita M. Rumbelow.

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